

# Solid Waste Management Policy Review – Task Force

## MEETING THREE - - - - DRAFT AGENDA

December 6, 2005

Augusta Elks Lodge

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE 9:30 – 4:30 SCHEDULE! \*\***

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<b>Welcome, introductions, review of second meeting and questions presented, overview of third meeting</b>
10:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Break out groups:</b> <b>Discuss policy questions, identify impacts and solutions</b> (what works, what doesn't work) <b>1) Host and local communities</b> <b>2) Managing wastes</b> <b>a. Construction and Demolition Debris</b> Addressing this increasing waste stream and its challenges <b>b. Material bans</b> Appropriateness of material/product selections Mitigating the management related to these items
12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<b>Lunch (provided)</b>
12:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>Break out groups (continued):</b> <b>2) Managing wastes (cont'd)</b> <b>c. Beneficial reuse of wastes</b> Its continued development and expansion <b>d. Recycling</b> Its continued development and expansion <b>3) Public education</b> Identification of needs; Message content; Message provided by whom; Program implementation ways and means <b>4) Regional Approaches and Partnerships</b> – should and if so, how, should the state appropriately foster these? <b>5) Other issues??</b>
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	<b>Comments from the public</b>
3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	<b>Large group review of break out groups' discussion</b>
3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<b>SPO's Next Steps and Timeline; Wrap-up</b>

## **Interviewee comments on topics - from assessment report**

### **Host Communities**

#### *Interviewee comments:*

- Host communities should have an independent environmental review body.
- State statute leaves host community agreements undefined – would help to define better.
- Facilities should not be allowed to operate until host community agreement finalized.
- Interest in giving host communities the authority to issue cease and desist orders.
- Interest in a system like Massachusetts where local Board of Health has certain approval authority for solid waste facilities.
- Interest in allowing municipalities to be stricter than the state in solid waste regulation; it was expressed that this is the norm in all other areas of regulation in Maine.

#### *Policy questions:*

*Should the role of host communities be more clearly defined and should the authority and rights of host communities be changed?*

*What should be the 1) level of compensation and 2) degree of control related to facility siting, expansion and/or operation for:*

- *Host communities?*
- *Local Communities?*

### **Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD)**

#### *Interviewee comments:*

- CDD shouldn't be landfilled.
- Creating lower cost options for disposal of CDD is important for the state's economy.
- CDD that originates outside of Maine should be considered out-of-state waste.
- CDD shouldn't contain any MSW.
- Concern that national landscape is going opposite to Maine – NH did a moratorium on burning CDD; Massachusetts banned landfilling of CDD.

#### *Policy questions:*

*What policies related to CDD management should be addressed or changed?*

*Should beneficial use of CDD continue to be encouraged? If so, how best is this achieved?*

## **Material bans**

### *Interviewee comments:*

- Concern that bans are not based on highest degree of risk or best science – an overall statewide prioritization and strategy should be developed to determine which materials are most problematic in the waste stream.
- Household hazardous waste and universal waste are unfunded mandates that drive up the cost of municipal operations.
- Administrative costs to handle universal wastes are high – determining manufacturer, serial numbers, etc.

### *Policy questions:*

What state policy changes are needed to improve the appropriateness of material/product selection?

What state policy changes would help improve the management of these items and reduce the burden on municipalities and/or others?

## **Beneficial Reuse**

*What state policies currently hinder the development and expansion of beneficial reuse?*

*What state policies can be considered to encourage the development and expansion of beneficial reuse?*

## **Recycling**

### *Interviewee comments:*

- Interest amongst many interviewees to increase recycling.
- Increase the use of market-based approaches.
- Increase the use of incentives.
- Give lower tip fees for solid waste disposal to communities with higher recycling rates.
- Increase the use of regional approaches.
- Increase opportunities for apartment dwellers.
- Increase amount of recycling from the business sector.
- Increase composting, such as food waste – “can’t achieve 50% goal without doing this” “last frontier, need more public education”.
- Single-stream recycling will increase quantities.
- More public education at state level.
- Provide more technical assistance to solid waste and recycling program operators, such as workshops on marketing approaches, roundtable discussions on topical issues, etc.
- More creative economic-based approaches to reaching the 50% goal should be developed.
- Look to other countries (examples given of New Zealand and Halifax, Nova Scotia) for methods to increase recycling.
- Examine lessons from Maine communities – look at communities with recycling rates in the top 10% and bottom 10% in Maine to see what has worked and what hasn’t.
- Other states have done better – result of leadership and bringing state agencies together.

- Collect fees on MSW disposal to support recycling, battery collection sites, etc.

*Policy questions:*

*What state policies currently hinder the development and expansion of beneficial reuse?*

*What state policy changes are needed to support the continued development and expansion of recycling?*

### **Public Education:**

*Interviewee comments:*

- Increased public education by the state is needed on solid waste issues and recycling (repeated by a number of stakeholders).

*Policy questions:*

*What messages are needed for public education?*

*How should the messages be delivered?*

*Who should deliver the messages?*

*What else is needed to improve public education?*

### **Regional Approaches:**

*Interviewee comments:*

- There are not enough incentives or penalties to move communities towards regional solutions.
- Host community benefits should be developed for creating regional facilities.
- Regionalization grants should be made available to others besides municipalities.
- Regional household hazardous waste programs would be beneficial, by allowing for more frequent collection of materials.

*Policy questions:*

*Should, and if so, how should the state appropriately foster regional approaches?*

### **Other issues:**

- Waste that is classified as hazardous in other states is entering Maine and being classified non-hazardous here.
- No accounting is done of industrial wastes, such as sludge, chemicals, etc.
- Interest in increasing the accuracy of SPO's quantity tracking data.
- Overweight trucks are having a negative impact on Maine roads and are causing the state to lose fuel tax revenues.
- Waste-hauling trucks should not be exempt from air emission standards.

*Policy questions:*

*What state policy changes are needed to address these other issues?*